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File: 2000.046600

May 24, 2000

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Mr. Christian Zistl
Sr. Process Integration Engineer
Technology Dept.
AMD Saxony Manufacturing GmbH
Wilschdorfer Landstraße 101, M/S E32-TY
01109 Dresden - GERMANY

Re: *AMD Disclosure Entitled*
IMPROVED DEPTH OF FOCUS (DOF) FOR TRENCH-FIRST-VIA-
LAST (TFVL) DAMASCENE PROCESSING WITH HARD
MASK AND LOW VISCOSITY PHOTORESIST

Inventors: Zistl/Tsui/Park
Your Ref. TT3851; Our Ref. 2000.046600

Dear Mr. Zistl:

Enclosed is a patent application for the above-referenced AMD disclosure for your review. Also enclosed are the Declaration, Assignment, and Power of Attorney which should be executed by you.

Please review the patent specification carefully to ensure its accuracy. If minor corrections or modifications are necessary, please ask them to mark the changes directly on the application. If extensive modification is necessary, please return the application to me for correction prior to execution of the formal papers.

If the application is ready for filing with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please read the Declaration, Assignment, and Power of Attorney carefully to ensure that you understand them and sign and date the documents in the appropriate places. Additionally, please be sure your home address on the Declaration is correct.

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EXHIBIT C

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Please return the application, as well as the executed documents, at your earliest convenience, for filing in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Information Disclosure Statement

A duty of candor and good faith toward the Patent Office rests on the inventor and on every other individual who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of a patent application. All such individuals have a duty to disclose to the Office known information that may be material to the patentability of a pending claim. Such information is material to patentability when: (1) it establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a *prima facie* case of unpatentability; or (2) it refutes, or is inconsistent with a position the applicant takes in (a) opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the patent examiner, or (b) asserting an argument of patentability.

An Information Disclosure Statement should therefore be filed in the Patent Office within about three months of the filing date of the patent application to comply with this duty of disclosure, listing material publications or pertinent information of which you are aware. This includes:

- (a) products or services in public use or on sale in this country prior to your U.S. filing date;
- (b) all related material (including international patent applications) published in this country or a foreign country prior to your U.S. filing date;
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- (d) any pertinent applications published prior to your filing date.

We request that you supply us with copies of all material prior art references of which you are aware and any other information which should be disclosed to the Patent Office. We would like to file the Information Disclosure Statement within three months of the filing date, so we need you to supply the copies to us about a month prior to that time. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions as to what should be included.

Continuing Duty of Candor

We would like to emphasize that the duty of candor does not cease once the Information Disclosure Statement has been filed. The duty remains throughout examination of the patent application. Therefore, if any additional information of relevance comes to your attention during examination of this patent application, it is important that you advise us immediately so that such information can be submitted to the Patent Office.

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Furthermore, for as long as any patent that may be granted on this patent application is of value to you, we recommend that you keep us advised of any relevant information that comes to light. We can then consider such and advise on options such as limiting the claims to avoid such prior art by filing an application for a reissue patent or an application for reexamination.

If you have any questions, please call or fax me at your convenience.

Very truly yours,



Dr. Randall C. Furlong, Esq.

RCF:kd

Enclosures

cc: Laura K. Fenton (w/o encl.)
Paul S. Drake, Esq. (w/o encl.)
Ms. Mary Paul (w/o encl.) [Firm]
Ms. Wendy Vincent (w/o encl.) [Firm, Docketing]

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